

ABSTRACT

5 Viral proteins derived from an enterically
transmitted non-A/non-B viral hepatitis agent (HEV)
are disclosed. In one embodiment, the protein is
immunologically reactive with antibodies present in
individuals infected with the viral hepatitis agent.
This protein is useful in a diagnostic method for
detecting infection by the enterically transmitted
10 agent. Specific epitopes have been identified that
are reactive with sera of individual infected with
different strains of HEV. Also disclosed are DNA
probes derived from a cloned sequence of the viral
agent. These probes are useful for identifying and
15 sequencing the entire viral agent and for assaying the
presence of the viral agent in an infected sample, by
using probe-specific amplification of virus-derived
DNA fragments.